

or the orator that has rivaled Demosthenes and Cicero? all of whom wrote before ardent spirit was known.

Is it said that genius is quickened by it, and its productions made to smell less of the lamp? they however smell more of the decanter, and of the immoral influence that springs from its habitual use. Childe Harold was written when the author practised total abstinence, and Don Juan when he jaded his muse with gin; and a better commentary on the demoralizing, debasing and polluting influence of such stimulus, cannot and need not be offered. It should be remembered that all such artful impulses are fitful and uncertain, and that he who urges the speed of his mental engine by such intensely heating fuel, hastens the declension of its power, and that he is unprovided with any safety-valve, to prevent an apoplectic explosion.

I might proceed with the catalogue of diseases that result from the use and abuse of distilled liquors, and present to you, Jaundice, Gout, Rheumatism, Dropsy, Palsy, Epilepsy, Apoplexy, and Dyspepsia in its Protean forms. In truth, there is scarcely a human infirmity that may not be directly or indirectly excited, or in some degree aggravated, by this morbid agent.

II.

ON THE EFFICACY OF LARGE INJECTIONS IN THE TREATMENT OF BILIOUS COLIC.

Communicated to THOMAS COCK, M.D., &c., of New York, by J. S. PAIGE, of Owego, N. Y.

I TAKE the liberty of communicating the method of treating bilious

colic which I adopted about twelve years ago, and which I have followed ever since, with the most complete success.

The plan is, to use injections of mild, tepid fluids, to an amount sufficient to reach the obstructed or constricted portion of the gut, and thereby making a gentle, but firm pressure upon that part from below.

This practice was founded upon the incidents of the following case, which I will briefly notice. Mr. E. B., a strong, athletic man, aged about 35 years, was attacked with this species of colic in the summer of 1818. I was called upon to attend him, and pursued the practice usually adopted in such cases. Among the means made use of, were venesection, opium, various cathartic medicines, enemata, fomentations to the abdomen, general warm bathing, a blister, &c. Forty-eight hours or more were spent in this way, and several consultations were had, but all to no purpose: the obstruction remaining as obstinate, and the pain as distressing as ever.

Another expedient presented itself to my mind, that of acting upon the obstructed portion of the intestine mechanically, by injecting tepid fluids; six pints of warm water, milk and molasses, were ordered, which I commenced introducing with a syringe, intending to use the whole, or even more, if necessary, to effect my purpose. A consulting physician who was present, but unacquainted with my intention, requested me to desist, when I had used but a small part of the liquid; the patient also begged me to desist, saying that no more could be retained; but I paid little attention to the advice of my counsellor, or the entreaty of my

patient, till the latter informed me that he felt a considerable degree of pressure upon the point of obstruction; and after retaining the fluid in this situation a few moments, I desisted, having used the whole quantity prepared, and I began to hope that my work was about to answer the purpose intended, which I found to be the case in about fifteen or twenty minutes. Copious evacuations of fetid matter followed in large quantities, and a cessation of pain, and a general mitigation of symptoms, were the immediate consequences.

The case was subsequently treated with mild laxatives, diaphoretics, &c.; and after a proper time, gentle tonics were used to restore the action of the system.

Two or three weeks afterwards, the same person was again attacked in the same way from his own imprudence, and he found relief in the same way, and in a like short time.

The success of this plan in these two cases, afforded me a useful hint for the treatment of all important cases of a like kind, and I resolved to make further trials, whenever opportunities should present themselves; and a great many cases have since come under my care, all of which have been attended with the same result; and, consequently, I have made this the standing rule or method of my practice, for the last twelve years.

The rule I have adopted in such cases, and that I would recommend to others, is, to introduce a quantity of fluid with a large syringe, sufficient to make a firm, but gentle pressure upon the obstructed portion of the intestine, which may be known by the pain it gives the patient at that point; and more cer-

tain success may be expected, if the syringe be not withdrawn for a few minutes after this point be attained.

The quantity of fluid to be used, should be measured by the demand of each individual case: six pints usually answer the purpose; but in two instances, occurring in the same person, I have found it necessary to use twelve pints at a time, before the object was accomplished.

Perhaps it might be well to evacuate the rectum, before attempting to reach the obstruction. I think there would be an advantage in doing so, as some little impediment would be removed.

In the sequel, such treatment as the particular case shall require, will, of course, suggest itself to any skilful physician, taking into view the cause of the disease, and other circumstances dependent upon the disease.

I generally give mild laxatives, such as castor oil, or neutral salts, if the case be a simple one, brought on by exposure to cold, or some comparatively trifling circumstance; but if it depend on some more obviously important case, as an hepatic derangement, &c., other and more rigorous means should be used.

With regard to the composition of the fluid to be used in such cases, I should not be particular, provided it be sufficiently mild; perhaps mucilaginous injections in many instances might be preferable, particularly if the disease be of some considerable standing, and the intestines irritable or inflamed. It may, however, be proper in some cases to use stimulating mixtures, where there is much torpor of the bowels. But it is the mechanical

effect that is almost entirely to be relied on for success in this mode of treatment.

The means which urge me to recommend this mode of practice above all others with which I have been acquainted, are the following :

1st. Because it is more certain ; a mechanical dilatation of the intestine in this way is easily effected, and in a short time.

2d. Because medicines given by the mouth are so liable to be rejected by vomiting in this disease ; or if they are retained, they require more time to act, and are not so sure as this, for they may fail from inefficiency.

3d. Because, although other medicines may act in their usual time, yet by delay the patient is endangered, by the risk of inflammation supervening.

4th. Because it abbreviates the term of human suffering, by mitigating some of the keenest pangs to which our nature is subject, &c. &c.

I give you only the outline of this plan, and if it shall be thought worthy of adopting in this species of disease, and extended to other affections of a similar kind, you, and those who may become acquainted with it, can make such improvements as shall appear most proper.

You may say that the idea of introducing large quantities of liquid into the intestines, is not new : it certainly is not ; but the application of this practice I have not known to be made to the disease of colic—but in cases of intus-susception of the gut, it has long been recommended and used.—*N. Y. Med. J.*

III.

NOTES ON THE EPIDEMIC ERYSIPELAS WHICH PREVAILED IN THE PROVINCES OF NEW-BRUNSWICK AND NOVA SCOTIA.

Communicated to WILLIAM BAYARD, M.D., of New York, by ROBERT BAYARD, M.D. D.C.L., of New-Brunswick.

THE disease commenced early in the fall, although the weather had not been remarkable for any peculiar humidity or dryness. It attacked all ages, sexes, and constitutions, indiscriminately, and was prevalent as well among the upper as the lower orders, with those who enjoyed the comforts of life, and occurred in various exposures and localities. It showed itself first in my family, in a child of five years of age, who complained first of vomiting, great thirst, and the usual symptoms of inflammation of the mucous membrane of the stomach ; her constant cry was for water, which was quickly rejected. The disease was treated upon the general principles of gastritis. Venesection copiously, cupping, warm bath, leeches, and blisters—all seemed unavailing, until a very copious bleeding, *ad deliquium*, from a large opening, losing 3i. after two previous venesections. This last subdued the disease, which manifested a removal, by the desire for water ceasing. The convalescence was rapid. I may observe, cathartics had little effect ; and the child took nearly three drops of oil of croton, before the bowels yielded. The oil was given after the thirst had abated. In two or three days after her recovery, her elder sister, aged six years, was taken sick, much in the same manner. Similar treatment was adopted, with the exception of the oil of croton ;